Pollution in Asansol Industrial Belt

*139 SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Asansol Industrial Belt is heavily polluted by industries as well as coal mining; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to control pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to control pollution include the following:—

(i) Asansol-Durgapur area has been identified as one of the 19 critically polluted areas;

(ii) Comprehensive studies have been initiated for controlling pollution from the industries located in the region including mining operations, mine drainage and coal washeries;

(iii) Control technology for beehive coke oven emissions, coal briequette plants have been developed;

(iv) An intensive river basin study of the Damodar was carried out and hot spots have been identified.

(v) The Government of Bihar has initiated a programme of zero discharge from the industries which are discharging effluents into the Damodar River. Regular monitoring is being done and the industries have been directed to comply with the prescribed emission standards on a time-bound basis.

(vi) The Bihar State Pollution Control Boards has adopted a stringent effluent standard for oil and grease (5Mg/L as against National Minimal Standard of 10Mg/L) for the river Damodar;

(vii) The Board is vigorously advocating use of fly-ash in stowing the abandoned mines and for making of rural roads and bricks;

(viii) The Board, in collaboration with Dhanbad District Administration, has carried out intensive plantation in the project entitled "Green Dhanbad".

Destruction of Parassinikkadaru Snake Park in Kerala

*140. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the renowned Parassinikkadaru Snake Park in the northern Kerala district of Kannur has been destroyed by vandals; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent of destruction of the park and loss and what steps Government propose to take for its revival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is reported that on 10.2.1993 some miscreants damaged the structures and destroyed some animals in the Parassinikkadaru Snake Park at Parassinikkadaru in Kannur District of Kerala. An interim report received from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Kerala, reveals that out of 163 animals in stock on the date of incident 92 died, 44 are reported missing/escaped and only 27 are in custody. He has also informed that the State Wildlife Advisory Board of Kerala has resolved to initiate action against the offenders under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. He has further informed that State Police has already